

# NEWS RELEASE

# For Statewide Distribution



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## **Iowa's Unemployment Rate Holds Steady at 2.5 Percent**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 2.5 percent in September. The state's jobless rate was 2.4 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent in September.

"Iowa's labor force participation rate has steadily increased with 7,900 more Iowans in the workforce since August," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. "Although unemployment remains low for our state, there are still tens of thousands of positions open. During the Future Ready Iowa Summits, many employers and community members have come forward with innovative solutions for recruiting skilled workers and retaining them in the state. We look forward to hearing more from employers during the remaining summits, in which you can still register at [FutureReadyIowa.gov/registration](https://FutureReadyIowa.gov/registration)."

The number of unemployed Iowans increased to 44,200 in September from 43,800 in August. The current estimate is 4,200 higher than the year ago level of 40,000.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,694,200 in September. This figure was 7,900 higher than August and 45,200 higher than one year ago.

## **Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment**

Total nonfarm employment in Iowa decreased slightly in September (-400), the first monthly decline since March. Although there were some signs of hiring in the private sector, seasonal gains in government education were less than expected and more than matched the private sector growth. Government shed a combined 1,200 jobs in September, but still hovers 2,100 jobs higher than last year's mark. Private industries gained 800 jobs in September and have risen by 10,600 jobs annually.

Within private sectors, the largest monthly movement in September was in financial activities (+900). This sector has been showing signs of cutbacks throughout 2019, although there were job gains in each of the last two months. Whereas insurance carriers and related activities have expanded versus one year ago, credit intermediation has been generally flat since last September. Construction fared well in September and gained 800 jobs as projects continued later into the season. This sector has now added jobs in every month since April. Retail provided an unexpected gain to the trade, transportation, and utilities super sector which added 500 jobs.

Private sector losses were generally light in September. Leisure and hospitality had a drop of 700 jobs due to losses in accommodations and food services. Eating and drinking establishments were responsible for most of this monthly loss. Professional and business services pared 400 jobs with losses being concentrated in administrative support and waste management services. Manufacturing again posted a monthly loss (-200) as nondurable goods factories reduced staff. This is now the third-consecutive decrease for manufacturing.

Annually, Iowa establishments have gained 12,700 jobs over last year's mark. Although manufacturing has shown some recent weakness in nondurable goods manufacturing it still leads all super sectors in annual job gains (+4,800). Construction has reemerged recently as a job creator following a dismal first quarter and now rests 3,300 jobs above last year. The only super sectors losing jobs annually are information (-1,300) and mining (-100).

### Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	September 2019	August 2019	September 2018	Change from August 2019	September 2018
Civilian labor force	1,738,400	1,730,000	1,689,000	8,400	49,400
Unemployment	44,200	43,800	40,000	400	4,200
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.5%	2.4%	0.0	0.1
Employment	1,694,200	1,686,300	1,649,000	7,900	45,200
U.S. unemployment rate	3.5%	3.7%	3.7%	-0.2	-0.2

### Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,595,200	1,595,600	1,582,500	-400	12,700
Mining	2,400	2,400	2,500	0	-100
Construction	81,000	80,200	77,700	800	3,300
Manufacturing	228,500	228,700	223,700	-200	4,800
Trade, transportation and utilities	312,000	311,500	312,000	500	0
Information	20,700	20,700	22,000	0	-1,300
Financial activities	109,500	108,600	109,200	900	300
Professional and business services	141,600	142,000	140,400	-400	1,200
Education and health services	235,100	234,900	234,800	200	300
Leisure and hospitality	143,100	143,800	143,000	-700	100
Other services	59,300	59,600	57,300	-300	2,000
Government	262,000	263,200	259,900	-1,200	2,100

### Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	September 2019	August 2019	September 2018	% Change from August 2019	September 2018
<b>Initial claims</b>	7,611	9,104	7,145	-16.4%	6.5%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	15,840	18,863	15,023	-16.0%	5.4%
Weeks paid	47,753	57,894	45,580	-17.5%	4.8%
Amount paid	\$18,888,646	\$21,914,293	\$17,253,286	-13.8%	9.5%

Visit [www.iowalmi.gov](http://www.iowalmi.gov) for more information about current and historical data, labor force data, nonfarm employment, hours and earnings, and jobless benefits by county.

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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

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MEDIA ALERT: Local data for September will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. Statewide data for October 2019 will be released on Tuesday, November 19, 2019.

